

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN.
SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 22, 1845.
William Buckminster, Editor.

Close of the Session.

We hoped to be able this week to tell our readers our legislators had departed to their several homes, and that the Senators had gone to meet a little of the "out door influence" of which a few of them complained so much in the Senate Chamber. But they must be patient till another week.

The Committees of the Legislature have had much labor on their hands, and we doubt not have been as industrious as any previous Session. This labor has been much more arduous than it need be on account of the pernicious practice of making your Committees of Inquiry Courts of Law, admitting counsel to argue, and protracting proceedings to great length, "in evil example to all future legislators like circumstances."

Petitioners have been put to great expense, waiting here for ten continuous weeks for a decision, of a tribunal which has no authority to decide; but to inquire only and report the facts of the case. It is altogether absurd to have such display, such acts trials, before Committees of Inquiry. Counsel are admitted to argue against the prayer of petitioners, and clouds of witnesses are called up to testify negatively. The petitioners must employ counsel also and bring a house full of witnesses to enlighten or to darken counsel.

All this is a departure from the ancient course of proceeding, and it is wrong. Committees of the legislature should not constitute themselves Courts of Law. They should not admit counsel to argue against the prayer of any petition, nor to it. If one party employs counsel the other must. Under modern practice petitioners must be prepared with funds as large as those who are ripe for going to law and feeling the comforts of a Chancery suit.

Our Common Law Courts seldom require more than two weeks constant attention to learn the result of their investigations in a single case.

AGRICULTURAL MEETING, CONCLUDED.

He had travelled long Long Island and had learned of the farmers there that loaded sleds had benefited them more than any other other manure. Leached as 11 or 12 cents per bushel were preferred to the best stable manures from New York city. With these ashes they raise wheat on their sandy soils. He hoped more experiments would be tried with salt.

The Hon. Mr. ARNOLD of New Bedford, said farmers of a few acres in his part of the country must be cautious how they talk on agriculture among large farmers. Fish, the Mammals, are there considered very rich manure, but it is owing to the oil in them, not their coming from salt water. Mr. A. found leached ashes good on dry grounds, they would cause clover to grow on the low and wet fields, but on the whole they did not prove good for they retain too much moisture where the ground is naturally wet. Salt has not proved useful on his land. On sowing down in August he prefers to sow no grain. A grass crop being more valuable.

Mr. JENKS thought there were two classes of farmers. Those who are capable of teaching and those who can learn only, and it would not take long to determine which he belonged to. He thought we needed something scientific. Salt does not enter largely into vegetables. He had travelled in Virginia. Wheat there is very small compared with former times. It was not for want of lime for lime abounds there. As to fish there are acids in them; they are a rich manure.

Mr. SMITH said, it is evident that a great race of human beings had occupied this continent before the Indians who were found here by Europeans. That race were agriculturists, and were driven off by one more warlike. He thought there is much evidence of this in different parts of the continent. So too landed in Florida and in Texas. The inhabitants raised sunflowers and used the oil for lamps. He asked if sunflowers may not be cultivated to advantage. Much more was said which we have not room for.

Mr. Allen moved a vote of thanks to the Hon. Levi Lincoln who in the midst of his other labors had kindly consented to meet the farmers of the Commonwealth, and who had constantly attended and presided over their debates. A very full vote of thanks was taken. The President then made a pertinent address, acknowledging the honor, and the pleasure, and the instruction he had gained by attending these meetings. His remarks were received with acclamation.

Mr. Buckminster then moved the thanks of the meeting to the Vice Presidents (Hon. Morrill Allen and Rev. Mr. Sanger,) and the Committee of Arrangements, for their labors and attention in furnishing the designs of these meetings. The President on putting the vote named the Reporters also. Mr. B. said he did not mean to include them in his motion. Perhaps they had not done their duty so well.

The Hon. Mr. Allen moved that the meeting adjourn to the Tuesday following the first day of the next Session of the Legislature, and it was accordingly adjourned.

The Hon. J. P. Hale, member of Congress from New Hampshire, who voted against the annexation and the extension of slavery, is not re-elected, nor is Mr. Woodbury, who was set up for the purpose of defeating Hale. There will be a strong pull at the next trial.

SATURDAY. The whig members of our Legislature, at a caucus on Thursday evening, agreed to support the Hon. John Davis for Senator, in place of the Hon. Mr. Bates, deceased.

One of our blundering boys substitutes the word caption for caption, in the heading of the second article on our first page.

THE WEATHER, for a number of days, has been cold; a good warning to precious fruit trees.

We have at our office one bushel of nice Black Seed Wheat for seed.

THIRLWALL'S GREECE. The 8th and last of this elegantly written history of classic land completes the work, which is published by Harper & Brothers, at such a reasonable rate that any one may procure it.

Also Part IV. of the "Dictionary of Practical Medicine," comprising general pathology, the nature and treatment of diseases &c., edited by C. A. Lee, M. D.

Phillips & Sampson have the above and No. 21 of "Harper's Illustrated Bible" with admirably executed engravings and illustrations.

Redding & Co. 8 State St., have No. 21 of "Harper's Bible," "The Ladies Book" for April, and foreign Magazines and papers received this week by the steamship Cambria.

The Columbian Magazine, published in New York and edited by J. Inman, is a handsome Monthly. It has some good engravings and valuable reading for Ladies and Gentlemen.

Halburton & Dudley have it for sale at 12 State street.

The New York News says that Gov. Morton is to be appointed collector of the Port of Boston.

Gov. STEELE has been re-elected in New Hampshire by about one thousand majority. The vote in Mr. Hale's case shows that New Hampshire is not altogether in favor of the modern mode of "extending the area of freedom."

As we have published an article signed "Justice to All" we cannot refuse a place for the following. We undertake not to decide on the merits of this question. We are in favor of granting to every town, that chooses to apply, a right to make iron roads as well as other roads. Why not? Too many roads will be made, it is said. Well, we have so many town roads, yet you continue to authorize towns to take private property and lay new roads. But there is a patent right claimed to iron roads, and there has already directed attention to many matters of stirring interest, which give promise of an unusually busy session.

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